

18 APR 49

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Edward F. Witsell,
The Adjutant General, Department of the Army

SUBJECT: Declassification of CIA Reports

REFERENCE: a. AGAD 312.1/Security (49-119
dated 24 March 1949 (Secret)

1. We have considered your request to declassify certain CIA reports listed in reference, and find it impossible to comply. Our policy for determining the initial classification and subsequent reclassification, as well as our procedure for effecting any change in classification may be summarized as follows:

a. Minimum Classification.

No intelligence report of CIA shall be classified lower than "restricted."

b. Initial Classification.

The determination of the initial classification of a report will be made with due regard for the:

- (1) Classification of source material;
- (2) Protection of sources;
- (3) Use of source material out of context;
- (4) Instructions received by the requestor for whom the report was prepared;
- (5) Ultimate distribution of the report; and
- (6) Comments received thereon from the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

c. Reclassification.

- (1) Published CIA reports will not be reviewed as a matter of routine for the sole purpose of downgrading them. In most cases a report becomes obsolescent with the lapse of time, and no useful purpose can be served by the downgrading (which is done to make intelligence available to more readers).

- (2) Upon receipt of any request to downgrade one of its reports, CIA will review the report with a view to determining whether or not the initial classification should be changed. Once a change is considered desirable by CIA, the views of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force on the proposed change will then be ascertained. CIA will make the final determination.

2. To date, CIA has reviewed the ten reports and has taken the following action:

- a. Determined that the present classification is still valid and hence is recommending no change as to:

- (1) ORE 21-48 (Confidential)
- (2) ORE 25-48 (Confidential)
- (3) ORE 39-48 (Secret)
- (4) ORE 43-48 (Secret)
- (5) ORE 52-48 (Secret)
- (6) ORE 65-48 (Secret)
- (7) SR-38 (Secret)

- b. Is checking with the IAC agencies to determine whether they interpose any objection to the reclassification of:

- (1) ORE 9 from: Secret to: Confidential
- (2) ORE 45-48 from: Secret to: Confidential
- (3) ORE 46-48 from: Secret to: Confidential

3. Final action will be reported to you at a later date.

R. H. H.

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